GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:120
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007
IMPORT OF MARBLE
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of marble imported in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any adverse impact of the imports on the indigenous marble industry;

(c) if so, the reasons for such imports;

(d) whether any assessment has been made by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of indigenous marble industry?

Answer

MINISTER OFTHE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.120 FOR ANSWER ON 6TH MARCH, 2007 REGARDING "IMPORT OF MARBLE"

(a) Rough marble is classified under Chapter 25 of ITC (HS) Classification and finished marble is classified under Chapter 68 of ITC (HS) Classification. The total quantity of marble imported separately under these two categories for the last 3 years is Annexed. State-wise import data is not maintained by Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S).

(b) to (f) Import of rough marble classified under Chapter 25 is restricted for import. A limited quantity of 1.3 lakh tonnes per annum is permitted by the Government against licences. These imports are subject to the condition that the minimum import price of rough marble blocks should not be less than US $ 300 per metric tonne and the minimum price for imported slabs is not less than US $ 450 per metric tonne. Further, import of finished marble products classified under Chapter 68 of ITC (HS) Classification is allowed freely. However, the minimum import price for such imports is US $ 2700 per cubic metre.

The limited quantity of import allowed has been subjected to appropriate value restrictions, so that they do not adversely impact the domestically produced marble. Permission for the limited imports is granted to meet the domestic demand for high priced marble not met by domestic production. The limited import of marble permitted under the present policy may not have any adverse impact on the domestic marble producers.